

United States Patent [19]

Wood et al.

[11] **Patent Number:** 4,575,190[45] **Date of Patent:** Mar. 11, 1986[54] **HERMETIC ELECTRO-OPTIC DISPLAY CELL**

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[75] **Inventors:** John C. Wood, Eastleigh; Anthony C. Lowe, Braishfield; Barry F. Dowden, Romsey, all of England**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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[51] **Int. Cl.⁴** G02F 1/17[52] **U.S. Cl.** 350/357; 350/343; 350/344; 428/1[58] **Field of Search** 350/356, 357, 343, 344; 427/123, 124, 126.1, 250; 428/1[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A hermetic electro-optic display cell has an enclosure for a liquid electrolyte comprising a wall of a plastics material, a lower inorganic base and an upper window both of which are impervious to the electrolyte. Impervious gasket means seals at least the lower edges of the wall to the base when clamped together. To render the wall hermetic an inorganic coating is provided around the exterior faces and along the edges at least as far as the gasket means. Metal is the preferred coating except for transparent faces where silica may be employed.

8 Claims, 8 Drawing Figures